

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace in the description of the figures, paragraph 18, “FIGURE 5 is a partially schematic side elevational view of the bone fixation plate of FIGURE 1, which illustrates the cant angles of the canted sections of the bone fixation plate;” with the following paragraph:

FIGURE 5A is a partially schematic side elevational view of the bone fixation plate of FIGURE 1, which illustrates the cant angles of the canted sections of the bone fixation plate;

Please add the following new paragraphs after paragraph 18, which starts with “FIGURE 5 is a partially schematic side elevational view of the bone fixation plate of FIGURE 1, which illustrates the cant angles of the canted sections of the bone fixation plate;”:

FIGURE 5B is a partially schematic side elevational view of the bone fixation plate of FIGURE 1, which illustrates the bore axis parallel to each other.

FIGURE 5C is a partially schematic side elevational view of the bone fixation plate of FIGURE 1, which illustrates the bore axis intersecting at a point on a side of the plate proximal to the first and second vertebrae.

Please amend paragraph 50 as follows:

The bore angle 52 can vary depending on, for example, the size of the plate, the bone anchor, and/or the particular application. In certain exemplary embodiments, including the embodiment illustrated in FIGURE 5A, the bore axis 50A and the bore axis 50B intersect at a point on the proximal side of the bone fixation plate 10. In this configuration, the bone anchors, e.g., bone screws 25, positioned within bores 22A and 22B, i.e., at opposing ends of the bone fixation plate 10, are angled away from one another and away from the center of the bone fixation plate 10. In spinal applications in which the opposing ends of the bone fixation plate 10 are each attached to the vertebral body (VB) of a vertebra as illustrated in FIGURE 6, this configuration allows the bone anchors, e.g., bone screws 25, to be angled toward the center of

the vertebral body, resulting in better engagement between the bone screws and the vertebral bodies. In the case of cervical plates, for example, the bore angle 52 may be greater than 70° with respect to the longitudinal axis 20 and preferably between 75° and 85°.

Please amend paragraph 51 as follows:

The bore axis of each bore provided on a bone fixation plate may have a common bore angle, as in the case of the illustrated exemplary embodiment. Alternatively, the bore angle may vary for each bore provided. Moreover, one skilled in art will appreciate that bore angles other than those illustrated and described herein are possible, including embodiments in which the bore axis 50A and the bore axis 50B intersect at a point on the distal side of the bone fixation plate 10 such that the tips of the bone anchors are angled toward one another as illustrated in FIGURE 5C. In alternative embodiments, one or more of the bore axes may be oriented parallel to one another. For example, the bore axis 50A and the bore axis 50B may be oriented parallel to one another and at an angle other than perpendicular to the longitudinal axis 20 of the bone fixation plate as seen in FIGURE 5B.